

## PREFACE

The diary recorded in this book is published just as it was written, in France and Belgium, when I was with the Thirtieth Division, A. E. F. It has not been edited in any way and gives the impressions and thoughts of the writer at the time the incidents occurred. I had no idea that this diary would ever be published or that any one besides my own family would ever read it.

Not knowing what might happen to me, I wanted to leave some word for my wife and boy, that could be taken back to them to tell them what I had done and how I had lived. Fortunately, I was able to bring back the record myself.

The Historian of the North Carolina Historical Commission, Mr. R. B. House, hearing that I had such a diary, requested that I turn it over to the Commission to file with their World War Records. After some hesitancy, I did so. Mr. House and the late D. H. Hill, then Secretary of the Commission, read the diary and then requested permission to print portions of it in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, which was finally granted.

The present book does not include the whole of the diary, but does give, with the exceptions of drawings and sketches which were not reproduced, that portion covering the period from the time I left Camp Sevier to November 11, 1918, and extracts from the period, November 12th until I reached this country.

The diary, complete with drawings, sketches, photographs and maps, is at Raleigh, N. C., on file with the North Carolina Historical Commission.

JOSEPH HYDE PRATT.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.,  
June, 1926.